



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,495	03/18/2004	Donald R. Titterington	A0306-US-DIV	7713

21567 7590 03/16/2007
WELLS ST. JOHN P.S.
601 W. FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 1300
SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER

SERGEANT, RABON A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1711

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/804,495	Applicant(s) TITTERINGTON ET AL.	
	Examiner Rabon Sergent	Art Unit 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1711

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on December 20, 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration dates of the patents set forth within paragraph 6 of the Office action of September 28, 2006 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
2. Claims 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear how the “producing” language of claim 27 relates to the “reacting” language”. In other words, it is not clear if applicants intend that the alcohol and isocyanate react to produce the resin.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hays ('477).

Patentees disclose the production of oligomeric reaction products of isocyanates and rosin-based capping agents, such as hydroabietyl alcohol, suitable for use within ink compositions. See abstract; column 3, lines 21+; column 4, lines 7+; and column 7, lines 23-26. In view of the disclosed product and its use and further in view of the fact that the respective reactants are equivalent, the position is taken that specifying the ink as a phase change ink fails to distinguish the claims from the prior art, because one would reasonably expect the ink of Hays to inherently be a phase change ink.

Art Unit: 1711

5. Applicants' argument with respect to Hays has been carefully considered; however, the examiner sees no distinction between the fused ring alcohol of the claims and the capping reactant of the reference or the isocyanate of the claims and the isocyanate-functional oligomer of the reference. Contrary to applicants' argument, an isocyanate-functional oligomer is met by applicants' claimed isocyanate; the term, "isocyanate", conveys no limitation other than simply requiring isocyanate functionality.

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned

Art Unit: 1711

with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 21-32 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the following claims of the following copending applications:

<u>Application</u>	<u>Claim</u>
10/898,724	19 and 20
10/902,602	96 and 97
11/291,057	57 and 58
11/496,231	27
11/496,612	21 and 22

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because each set of copending claims is drawn to phase change ink compositions or their use, wherein the compositions are derived from fused ring alcohols, such as hydroabietyl alcohol, and either cyclohexyl isocyanate or isophorone diisocyanate. The position is taken that one of ordinary skill in the art in possession of the phase change ink composition would have also been in possession of the method of making it. Furthermore, the phase change ink composition, by its very name and nature, renders the use of the composition, to the extent claimed, obvious.

Art Unit: 1711

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

8. Claims 21-32 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13 and 14 of the U.S. Patent issuing from application 10/918,619. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because each set of claims is drawn to phase change ink compositions or their use, wherein the compositions are derived from fused ring alcohols, such as hydroabietyl alcohol, and isophorone diisocyanate. The position is taken that one of ordinary skill in the art in possession of the phase change ink composition would have also been in possession of the method of making it. Furthermore, the phase change ink composition, by its very name and nature, renders the use of the composition, to the extent claimed, obvious.

This rejection has been converted to a non-provisional rejection in view of the allowance of the copending application and the payment of the issue fee.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 1711

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sergent at telephone number (571) 272-1079.


RABON SERGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

R. Sergent
March 13, 2007